

Remarks at the United States Embassy in Accra

February 20, 2008

Thank you all. First, I want to thank Jordin Sparks for taking time out of her busy schedule to join us here in Ghana and for performing such a beautiful version of our national anthem. By prevailing on last season's American Idol, Jordin showed the world she has a great voice; raising awareness about malaria means that she has got great compassion and a big heart.

In addition to some great singing, last year's American Idol featured a fundraising campaign called "Idol Gives Back." The campaign brought in more than \$75 million for charities working in the United States and Africa. Seventeen million dollars went to organizations that protect American families—African families from malaria. And one of these charities, Malaria No More, has used the donations to provide bed nets for more than 2 million mothers and children in Uganda and Angola and Madagascar and Mali and Zambia.

Last spring, Laura and I made an appearance on American Idol—not because of our voices. [*Laughter*] We went on the show to thank viewers for participating in the "Idol Gives Back" campaign. This spring, FOX and American Idol will once again appeal to viewers to help defeat malaria. On April 9th, the show will raise money to fight malaria in Africa and support other worthy causes to the second round of "Idol Gives Back."

Laura and I hope, and Jordin hopes, that America's generosity will still pour forth. And we ask our fellow citizens to contribute to this worthy cause.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:36 a.m. in the Ambassador's Residence. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Jordin Sparks.

Remarks During a Lunch With Peace Corps Volunteers in Accra

February 20, 2008

Ambassador, thank you very much for setting up this lunch. Laura and I and Condi are thrilled to be with some of our most notable citizens. These are folks who have left

the comfort of America to join the Peace Corps to serve humanity, and we're really looking forward to hearing your stories and hearing what life is like.

One of the things I tell our country all the time is our great strength lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. And I don't think there's any more giving people than the Peace Corps volunteers. And so, Robert, thank you very much for joining us and bringing along some of the—our fellow citizens who are making a huge difference in people's lives.

I'm sure you would like to share a few remarks.

[*At this point, the discussion continued, and no transcript was provided.*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. in the Ambassador's Residence at the U.S. Embassy. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Pamela E. Bridgewater; and Robert W. Golledge, Jr., country director, Peace Corps—Ghana.

Remarks Prior to a Tee-Ball Game in Accra

February 20, 2008

Welcome to tee-ball in Ghana. Yes, we're glad you're here. Thanks for coming. I am so honored to be here for—to witness the game between—I want to make sure I get this right—the Little Dragons and the Little Saints.

Yes, I appreciate the Secretary of State coming, Condoleezza Rice. Madam Secretary, thank you. I appreciate very much the Ambassador joining us. Madam Ambassador, thank you. And we got a Major League scout here—yes, Jimmie Lee Solomon from Major League Baseball. He's looking for some talent. Good to see you, Jimmie Lee.

Listen, thank you all for letting us come by. I'm very excited about watching this game. I do want to thank your coaches. Thanks for coaching. Thanks for teaching people the importance of teamwork. I like baseball a lot, so thanks for teaching them how to play baseball too.

And are you ready to start? Are you going to give me that ball? All right, come on over.